

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

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THE DEPARTMENT has published, in booklet form, standards and recommendations for public prenatal care. The standards were developed as an outgrowth of a 1955-56 study which showed serious deficiencies in quality and quantity of prenatal care. Then, as now, maternal and neonatal mortality was higher in public institutions than in private institutions.

The department's Advisory Committee on Maternal and Child Health urged that standards be developed as a means of improving the care given in public institutions.

While these standards and recommendations are offered as a guide to professional health workers responsible for providing prenatal care services, they may also be helpful to physicians in private practice and to staff of non-tax supported prenatal care facilities.

The standards were reviewed by the Committee on Health Services of the California Conference of Local Health Officers, the Committee on Maternal and Child Care of the California Medical Association, and the Council of County Hospitals of the California Hospital Association.

Copies of the standards can be obtained from local health departments and all county hospitals with maternity services.

State and federal matching funds totalling more than \$16½ million were allocated in October by the department's Advisory Hospital Council for the construction of 24 hospital and health facilities projects. The state-federal funds represent two-thirds of project financing, with the remaining one-third provided by the local community.

The funds were allocated to the following projects (the amounts represent total state-federal funds):

General Hospitals: Needles Municipal Hospital, \$145,200; Roseville District Hospital, \$1,050,000; Lake Tahoe Community Hospital, \$598,010; Palo Verde Hospital, Blythe, \$520,000; Barstow Community Hospital, \$206,570; Victor Valley Lutheran Hospital, Victorville, \$829,288; St. Joseph Hospital, Santa Ana, \$4,114,600; San Antonio Community Hospital, Upland, \$2,500,400; Seaside Hospital,

Crescent City \$498,882, and Trinity General Hospital, Weaverville \$230,476.

Psychiatric: San Antonio Community Hospital, \$80,000; Glendale Sanitarium and Hospital, \$671,780, and Vista Hill Psychiatric Foundation, San Diego, \$856,422.

Health Centers: Butte County Health Department, Chico, \$151,270; Sacramento County Hospital, \$630,948; Los Angeles City Health Department, South District, \$100,200; San Joaquin Local Health District, Stockton, \$379,244, and San Francisco City and County Health Department, Eureka-Noe District, \$124,380.

Long Term Care: Rancho Los Amigos, \$1,242,080, and Holy Cross Hospital, San Fernando, \$335,568.

Diagnostic and Treatment Centers: Santa Clara County Hospital, San Jose, \$501,760, and Children's Hospital of the East Bay, Oakland, \$47,132.

Rehabilitation: Los Angeles County General Hospital, \$705,934, and Rehabilitation and Research Center of Crippled Children's Society of San Mateo County, Burlingame, \$117,104.

The number of births registered in California the first eight months of this year indicates that California's birth rate will be about the same as in 1959. If this trend continues, California will have 372,000 births in 1960, an increase of 14,000 over last year, and the birth rate will be 23.5 per thousand, same as in 1959.

This trend is different from that of the rest of the country, since the National Office of Vital Statistics has reported a current decline in the total number of babies born in the United States for the first half of 1960.

The death rate in California will increase slightly in 1960, largely because of the relatively high level of mortality from the pneumonia and influenza outbreak which occurred during January and February.

Barring any unusual increases in the last quarter, California will have approximately 136,000 deaths this year, and the crude death rate will be 8.6 per thousand, about 2 per cent higher than 1959.